

#### Congress of the United States

# House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2009

**1700** 

The Honorable Julius Genachowski Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW Washington, D.C. 20554

#### Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We write to express both our hopes and concerns related to current and upcoming Commission proceedings focused on the deployment and use of broadband networks.

We applaud the Commission's effort to gather information about broadband and its recognition of the significant progress achieved to date, progress that is a direct result of policies that have encouraged competition and private investment and relied on the exercise of regulatory restraint. A decade ago, broadband was a nascent service, and only one percent of U.S. households connected to the Internet through broadband lines; today by contrast, roughly two-thirds of Americans connect through high-speed connections that are available to ninety-five percent of households. While we have further to go as a nation in extending the benefits of broadband to all, it is our strong belief that continued progress in expanding the reach and capabilities of broadband networks will require the Commission to reiterate, and not repudiate, its historic commitment to competition, private investment and a restrained regulatory approach.

As the FCC embarks on its much anticipated rulemaking addressing the subject of "net neutrality," we therefore urge the Commission to carefully consider the full range of potential consequences that government action may have on network investment. We are confident that an objective review of the facts will reveal the critical role that competition and private investment have played -- and of necessity will continue to play -- in building robust broadband networks that are safe, secure and open. In light of the growth and innovation in new applications that the current regime has enabled, as compared to the limited evidence demonstrating any tangible harm, we would urge you to avoid tentative conclusions which favor government regulation.

Like you, we believe in a transparent, data-driven process and stand ready to work with you on measures that will spur adoption and expand the use of broadband networks. But we remain suspicious of conclusions based on slogans rather than substance and of policies that restrict and inhibit the very innovation and growth that we all seek to achieve.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our views.

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Charlie Gonzalez	Gene Green
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John Tanner	Travis Childers
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Michael McMahon	Loretta Safichez
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Henry Cueller Member of Congress	Tim Bishop Member of Congress
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Silvestre Reyes	Frank Kratovil, Jr.
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Bill Sorte
Bill Foster
Member of Congress
Daniel B. Maffei
Member of Congress
Flijah F Tummino

Elijah L. Cummings Member of Congress

Paul Stonlo Paul Tonko Member of Congress Ed Perlmutter Member of Congress Zachary T. Space Member of Congress Robert A. Brady Member of Congress Debbie L. Halvorson Member of Congress Member of Congress Jared Polis Member of Congress Stove Driehaus Member of Congress

Kathleen A. Dahlkemper

Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge Costa iober of Congress Member of Congress Leonard L. Boswell Mike Ross Member of Congress Member of Congress John/Spratt, Jr. Sheila Jackson-Lee Member of Congress Member of Congress Peter Welch Charlie Melancon Member of Congress Member of Congress 1. Muhave Michael Michaud Al Green Member of Congress Member of Congress Ed Pastor Kurt Schrader Member of Congress Member of Congress Danny K. Davis Michael Arcuri Member of Congress Member of Congress Glenn Nye Heath Shuler Member of Congress Member of Congress

Rick Larsen

Member of Congess

Nick Rahall Member of Congress Christopher P. Carnel Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver Member of Congress

CC: Commissioner Michael J. Copps Commissioner Mignon Clyburn Commissioner Robert M. McDowell Commissioner Meredith Attwell



March 3, 2010

The Honorable Suzanne Kosmas U.S. House of Representatives 238 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kosmas:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

The Commission released its *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* on preserving the open Internet on October 22, 2009. The *NPRM* launched a multi-month process, with the goals of safeguarding the free and open Internet, providing greater predictability for the marketplace, and fostering continued innovation and investment. The task of securing an open Internet deserves an open process. Accordingly, Commission staff are conducting a fact-based, transparent, and participatory process to develop rules based on a record that includes engineering and economic examinations.

The Commission has convened a group of technical advisory experts for ongoing input, and held a workshop in December on broadband network management. Over the last three months, the Commission also has held staff-level workshops on investment and innovation, on consumers and transparency, and on free speech and civic participation. Our process now is well underway, and we are encouraged by signs of growing common ground among the many stakeholders we have heard from.

I look forward to continuing a constructive dialogue with you on these issues. Please do not he sitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Julius Chachowski



March 3, 2010

The Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson U.S. House of Representatives 1133 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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Sincerely,

Julius Chachowski



March 3, 2010

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson U.S. House of Representatives 1511 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Johnson:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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Sincerely,



March 3, 2010

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee U.S. House of Representatives 2160 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Jackson Lee:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Tim Holden U.S. House of Representatives 2417 Rayburn House Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Holden:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Baron P. Hill U.S. House of Representatives 223 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hill:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings U.S. House of Representatives 2353 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hastings:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Debbie Halvorson U.S. House of Representatives 1541 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Halvorson:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Parker Griffith U.S. House of Representatives 417 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Griffith:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Gene Green U.S. House of Representatives 2372 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Al Green
U.S. House of Representatives
236 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Charles A. Gonzalez U.S. House of Representatives 303 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gonzalez:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge U.S. House of Representatives 1513 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Fudge:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Bill Foster
U.S. House of Representatives
1339 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Foster:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Chaka Fattah U.S. House of Representatives 2301 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fattah:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Steve Driehaus U.S. House of Representatives 408 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Driehaus:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Lincoln Davis U.S. House of Representatives 410 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

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The Honorable Danny K. Davis U.S. House of Representatives 2159 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

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I look forward to continuing a constructive dialogue with you on these issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



March 3, 2010

The Honorable Kathy Dahlkemper U.S. House of Representatives 516 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Dahlkemper:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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Sincerely,



March 3, 2010

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings U.S. House of Representatives 2235 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cummings:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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Sincerely,



March 3, 2010

The Honorable Henry Cuellar U.S. House of Representatives 336 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cuellar:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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Sincerely,



March 3, 2010

The Honorable Joseph Crowley U.S. House of Representatives 2404 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crowley:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Jim Costa U.S. House of Representatives 1314 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Costa:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver U.S. House of Representatives 1027 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cleaver:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable William Lacy Clay U.S. House of Representatives 2418 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Clay:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen U.S. House of Representatives 1510 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Christensen:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Travis Childers U.S. House of Representatives 1708 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Childers:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Chris Carney U.S. House of Representatives 416 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carney:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Russ Carnahan U.S. House of Representatives 1710 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carnahan:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Dennis Cardoza U.S. House of Representatives 1224 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable George K. Butterfield U.S. House of Representatives 413 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Bobby N. Bright U.S. House of Representatives 1205 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bright:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Robert A. Brady U.S. House of Representatives 206 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brady:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable F. Allen Boyd, Jr. U.S. House of Representatives 1227 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boyd:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Leonard Boswell U.S. House of Representatives 1427 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boswell:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Dan Boren U.S. House of Representatives 216 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boren:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. U.S. House of Representatives 2429 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Timothy H. Bishop U.S. House of Representatives 306 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop:

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I look forward to continuing a constructive dialogue with you on these issues. Please do not he sitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



March 3, 2010

The Honorable John Barrow U.S. House of Representatives 213 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barrow:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Joe Baca U.S. House of Representatives 2245 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Baca:

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